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**The Matrix: Reflection Paper**

The main statement of the movie is the question of ‘what is reality?’ Are the people, surroundings, and elements that we perceive to be real, actually real? How do we define real? Is it by our senses telling our mind that what we are looking at is real? These are all topics that The Matrix focuses on.

In the beginning of the movie, we see Morpheus asking Neo how you define what is real, since he was claiming everything that had happened to him was not real. Morpheus then goes on to explaining that the matrix is a neural-interactive simulation which sends electrical signals to the brain to be interpreted in various ways. I think this is signifying all the ways of knowing: awareness of the senses, emotions, reasoning, language, logic, authority and experience, the matrix has the power to keep us in a bubble, that we believe to be all that is real. I think that what the matrix is trying to convey to us, is that often times, people just accept things as they appear. We base the world we see, and the experiences we’ve had on the beliefs that we have. Basically everyone perceives reality differently, religion, optimism, pessimism are all beliefs that influence our perception of the world. Another point that The matrix is directed at is ignorance. An example of this from the movie would be when Cypher was with Agent Smith, and he started talking about the steak in front of him (sensory perception). He said, even though he knew that the matrix was telling that the steak was tasty and all, he didn’t care, because ignorance is bliss. I think that in our world today, this attitude is becoming more and more common in people. Religious ignorance, and consumer ignorance are the two most important ones. So many conflicts and tension are caused by religious ignorance around the world, that could be prevented if people left their comfort zone, and learnt a little bit about the religion they’re mocking. People all over the world are happy to buy products that they think are valuable only because they’re friends bought them and because of an impressive advertisement . We are happy to buy and eat and drink products we don’t know that much about. That’s what the Matrix is trying to convey, that we need to snap out of our dream bubble world and back into reality.